

## CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS

*Exchange of notes at Washington September 29 and December 16, 1930*

*Entered into force December 16, 1930*

Department of State files

*The Secretary of State to the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*

SEPTEMBER 29, 1930

SIR:

Reference is made to Article D, Part I, of the Procedure for the Exemption from Duty of Articles for the Use of Diplomatic, Consular, and Other Officers Stationed in China, which reads as follows:

"If any country has enacted regulations restricting the remission of duty or freedom of entry of articles for official or personal use carried by Chinese ambassadors, ministers, charges d'affaires, officers of Chinese diplomatic missions, consuls, and trade commissioners abroad which differ from these, the official and personal effects of such country's diplomatic, consular and other officers in China shall be treated in accordance with the regulations of that country."

In reply to a note from the American Minister to China requesting an elucidation of Article D, the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that if the customs procedure of any country with respect to foreign diplomatic and consular officers be more favorable than that of China the Chinese Government will reciprocate. This Government desires that American consular officers assigned to China be accorded the free importation privilege during their official residence, and after consultation with the appropriate authorities of this Government I have pleasure in informing you that, in addition to the free entry of baggage and effects upon arrival and return to their posts in this country after visits abroad which Chinese consular officers assigned to the United States already enjoy, effective at once, upon the request of the Chinese Legation in each instance, this Department will arrange for the free entry of articles imported for personal use during their official residence in the United States by Chinese consular officers who are

Chinese nationals and not engaged in any other business, and their families, with the understanding that no article the importation of which is prohibited by the laws of the United States shall be imported by them.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

For the Secretary of State:

W. R. CASTLE, JR.

MR. YUNG KWAI,

*Chinese Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.*

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*The Chinese Minister to the Secretary of State*

CHINESE LEGATION

WASHINGTON

December 16, 1930

SIR:

Referring to previous correspondence concerning a reciprocal arrangement for according to American consular officers in China and Chinese consular officers in the United States the free importation privilege during their official residence, I have the honor to inform you under instructions from my Government that my Government is in complete accord with the American Government on the subject and that in consideration of similar privilege being accorded to Chinese consular officers in the United States instructions have been issued to the appropriate authorities at the various ports in China to admit to free entry articles imported for personal use during their official residence in China by American consular officers who are American nationals and not engaged in any other business, and their families, upon the request of the American Legation in each instance, with the understanding that no article the importation of which is prohibited by Chinese laws shall be imported by them.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

CHAO-CHU WU

HONORABLE HENRY L. STIMSON,

*Secretary of State.*